



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3501.225A
N851

13 JAN 1998

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3501.225A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVY PREMEDITATED PERSONNEL PARACHUTING (P3) PROGRAM

- Ref:
- (a) NAVSEAINST 13512.1A, Premeditated Personnel Parachuting (P3) Equipment Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) (NOTAL)
 - (b) NAVPERS 15560.C, Naval Military Personnel Manual
 - (c) FM 31-19/FMFM 7-43, Military Free-fall Parachuting Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures
 - (d) TC 31-24, Special Forces Air Operations
 - (e) FM 57-220/MCWP 3-1.5.7/TO 14D1-2-1-121, Static Line Parachuting Techniques and Training
 - (f) NAVMED P-117, Manual of the Medical Department, U.S. Navy
 - (g) OPNAVINST 1000.16H, Manual of Navy Total Force Manpower Policies and Procedures
 - (h) OPNAVINST 5700.7G, The U.S. Navy Personnel Exchange Program (PEP)
 - (i) OPNAVINST 3504.1, Premeditated Personnel Parachuting Log and Navy Airdrop Malfunction Report
 - (j) OPNAVINST 5100.8G, Navy Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Program
 - (k) OPNAVINST 5102.1C, Mishap Investigation and Reporting
 - (l) NWP 10-1-10, Operational Reports
 - (m) JAGINST 5800.7C, Manual of the Judge Advocate General
 - (n) OPNAVINST 4630.24B, Joint Airdrop Inspection Records, Malfunction Investigations, and Activity Reporting (NOTAL)
 - (o) OPNAVINST 1500.8M, Navy Training Planning Process (NOTAL)
 - (p) SECNAVINST 5000.2B, Implementation of Mandatory Procedures for Major and Non-Major Defense Acquisition Programs and Major and Non-Major Information Technology Acquisition Programs
 - (q) OPNAVINST 4441.12B, Retail Supply Support of Naval Activities and Operating Forces (NOTAL)
 - (r) OPNAVINST 5450.180C, Mission and Functions of Naval Safety Center

13 JAN 1998

1. Purpose. To establish uniform policy and assign responsibilities for the Navy Premeditated Personnel Parachuting (P3) Program. This revision includes major changes to policy, assignment of responsibilities and definitions. The changes included in this revision constitute a complete rewrite of the original directive.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3501.225.

3. Scope. This instruction emphasizes safety and applies to all Navy P3 training and operations conducted by the U.S. Navy. Aircrew survival equipment, systems, training, and operations are not addressed in this instruction. This instruction is not applicable to Marine Corps parachutists or U.S. Navy personnel assigned to Marine Corps units. Marine Corps personnel are guided by the policies set forth in Marine Corps Order 3500.20.

4. Definitions

a. For the purpose of this instruction, parachuting is defined as any activity in which personnel intend to employ, or actually deploy, a parachute during all or part of a descent to the surface from an aircraft in flight.

b. A P3 jump is an intentional, planned parachuting activity during which personnel wear a single or dual-harness parachute, having at least one approved main parachute and one approved auxiliary parachute.

c. A non-premeditated, emergency parachute jump is a parachuting activity made necessary because of an in-flight emergency, during which personnel wear or are attached to a single or dual-harness parachute, usually having only one approved parachute.

d. The following terms are defined as they relate to the Navy P3 Program:

(1) Quality Assurance. The procedure for independent technical review, test, and approval to ensure material and procedural adequacy of P3 equipment or systems to perform safely within specified operational limits.

(2) Quality Assurance Authority. The delegated authority within the Program Executive Office for Carriers, Littoral Warfare and Auxiliary Ships (PEO CLA) responsible for carrying

1 JAN 1999

out quality assurance functions and procedures as they pertain to P3 equipment and systems; this term also refers to the specific code so designated within PEO CLA.

(3) Authorized for Navy Use (ANU). The designation applied to selected parachute equipment, tools, systems, accessories, and components which have undergone design safety reviews, test and evaluation, or both to ensure parachutist safety. Parachute equipment can be designated ANU only by the Technical Manager for parachuting (PEO CLA, PMS325). Reference (a) provides a listing of ANU parachute equipment and discusses the ANU process, which addresses three basic categories of equipment, as follows:

(a) Category I. Parachutist life support equipment (e.g., parachutes, parachute components, harnesses, containers, life vests/preservers, oxygen breathing equipment, helmets, automatic opening/actuating devices, altimeters, etc.) which is worn by, or otherwise attached to, the parachutist.

(b) Category II. Non-life support equipment which is potentially hazardous to the parachutist (e.g., equipment containers/deployment devices, navigation devices, etc.).

(c) Category III. Non-life support ancillary equipment typically worn or used in premeditated parachuting which:

1. is available in a broad selection of acceptable candidates,

2. the selection harbors no candidates that would create a life-threatening hazard to a reasonably prudent Navy parachutist, and

3. is carried by a Navy parachutist in support of mission needs, e.g., a knife.

(4) Qualified Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist. An active duty or reserve military member or civilian employee of the Navy or Marine Corps who has successfully completed formal training at an approved inter-service training site and maintains qualification as required by reference (b).

(5) Waiver. Authorization to depart from established operating/safety procedures, to use parachute equipment which is not currently ANU, or to exceed specified operational limits.

13 JAN 1998

Only the Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division) (N85) for the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) can approve a request for a waiver.

5. Policy. Mission accomplishment while maintaining safety of personnel is the primary consideration in all P3 training and operations. Accordingly, the following policies and procedures are established for the Navy P3 Program:

a. CNO (N85) is the authority for Navy P3 policy. The Naval Special Warfare Branch (N851), acting for N85, will coordinate all P3 matters including those related to Naval Special Warfare (N851), parachute equipment research, development, test and evaluation, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (N852F).

b. Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) is designated the Training Agent for Navy P3 training.

c. The U.S. Army is the Department of Defense (DoD) proponent for P3 activities. Accordingly, U.S. Army P3 policy, doctrine and procedures will be adhered to so long as such adherence does not negatively impact Navy operational readiness. Further, the provisions of references (c) through (e) are adopted as official Navy policy and procedures until such time as comparable Navy policy and procedures are issued.

d. PEO CLA (PMS325) has the lead for equipment acquisition and is the Technical Manager for ANU designation of all equipment and systems used for Navy P3 Program.

e. Navy P3 activities will be conducted only by currently qualified military and DoD civilian parachutists using only ANU parachute equipment, systems, and certified procedures. Also, only currently qualified military and DoD civilian parachutists will be allowed to use Navy parachute equipment or have access to Navy packing and maintenance facilities. Exceptions to this policy require prior approval from CNO (N85), see paragraph 4d(5).

f. Reference (f) establishes and provides physical standards for Navy parachutists.

(1) All Navy parachutists must receive periodic physicals per references (b) and (f) to remain qualified.

13 JAN 1998

(2) Requests for exceptions from these standards must be submitted to CNO (N85) via Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

g. Parachuting billets will be established or changed per reference (g).

h. Joint/Combined Training and Foreign Duty Assignment

(1) Joint Training. Qualified U.S. Navy parachutists engaged in parachute training operations with other branches of the U.S. military will use only ANU equipment and systems. Qualified Navy Military Free-Fall inter-service instructors are authorized to use other service's P3 parachutes and equipment according to the directives of these other services when their safety requirements are determined to be equal to or more stringent and thereby afford greater safety than U.S. Navy regulations. Strict compliance with Navy P3 doctrine, policy, and procedures will be observed. PEO CLA (PMS325) will review equipment endorsed by other units of the U.S. Armed Forces for addition to the ANU listing.

(2) Combined Training

(a) Qualified U.S. Navy parachutists engaged in combined parachute training operations are authorized to jump from foreign aircraft. U.S. personnel may utilize the foreign jump procedures, if considered safe and practical by the senior U.S. Naval Officer or Chief Petty Officer on-scene, when exiting the foreign aircraft. Prior to any such operations, the operational commander of the forces involved must be notified of all planned jump activities. The use of non-ANU foreign parachute equipment and systems by U.S. Navy personnel during peacetime allied training operations requires a waiver from CNO (N85).

(b) Qualified foreign parachutists may jump from U.S. aircraft when conducting combined parachute training. The use of U.S. Navy-owned (ANU) parachute equipment, systems, and facilities by foreign parachutists is authorized provided such parachutists are currently qualified in accordance with their particular military service requirements, and U.S. Navy certified procedures are used. Any other use of U.S. Navy-owned (ANU) parachute equipment, systems, or facilities by foreign parachutists requires a waiver by CNO (N85).

13 JAN 1998

(3) Foreign Duty Assignment. Per reference (h), qualified U.S. Navy parachutists permanently assigned to billets with the armed forces of allied nations are permitted to use foreign parachute equipment and comply with the operational standards of that allied force. The senior U.S. Navy parachutist assigned to a particular unit shall ensure that no undue safety hazards exist before allowing the participation of U.S. personnel in parachuting operations.

i. Waiver Requests

(1) Waiver requests will be submitted to CNO (N85) via PEO CLA (PMS325).

(2) Waiver requests must substantiate the urgent or unusual circumstances which justify their approval and will include a description of the operational scenario, equipment or system material condition, potential impact on personnel safety, and required duration of the waiver.

j. Parachute Test and Evaluation (T&E). Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, China Lake is authorized to conduct test parachutist training and certification above the basic static-line parachutist initial qualification level. In addition, with specific written authorization from the cognizant systems command and in conjunction with the ANU process and/or the performance of parachute-related T&E (including necessary training), he or she is authorized to purchase and use equipment which has not been certified or authorized for Navy use. All other activities must obtain permission from CNO (N85) via PEO CLA (PMS325) to purchase/sub-custody/borrow and use non-authorized equipment.

k. Navy Parachute Demonstration Team. The Naval Special Warfare Parachute Demonstration Team is authorized to procure and use equipment not listed in reference (a) (e.g., selected main and reserve parachute canopies, smoke flare brackets, etc.), which have been safety tested by the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and approved by PEO CLA (PMS325).

10 JAN 1988

1. Training

(1) The following P3 training shall be accomplished at formal inter-service training sites only:

- Basic Static-Line
- Parachute Rigger
- Military Free-fall

(2) The following P3 training shall be accomplished at formal inter-service training sites or exported to the unit level and taught by certified inter-service instructors:

- Static-line Jumpmaster
- Free-fall Jumpmaster
- Airdrop Load Inspector Certification
- Auto Ripcord Release Assembly Maintenance
- Ram-Air Parachute Systems
- Ram-Air Parachute System Transition training
- In-Flight Oxygen Technician
- Other "support courses" with multi-service utility, as required (e.g., Hazardous Material Airlift Certification, Airlift Load planner)

(3) P3 qualification training conducted at the unit level shall be restricted to that involving Navy-unique mission requirements.

6. Action. All commands exercising operational and/or administrative control of Navy parachutists will implement the policies and procedures of references (a) through (g), (i) through (o) and this instruction as they relate to the Navy P3 Program. Implementing directives will be issued through Echelon 3 commands. They will ensure that P3 training and operations are conducted only by properly qualified Navy parachutists using only ANU parachute equipment, systems, and procedures.

a. CNO will:

(1) Provide Navy P3 Program policy guidance.

(2) Coordinate fleet requests and establish requirements for specific parachute systems and equipment.

13 JAN 1993

(3) Be the final authority on all requests for waiver of safety and operational procedures, personnel qualifications, and material requirements related to Navy parachuting.

(4) Provide guidance to the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) regarding the maintenance of Navy P3 statistics.

(5) With support from BUMED, CNET, and Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM), develop and issue personnel qualification requirements for Navy parachutists.

b. Fleet commanders, systems command commanders, type commanders, squadron and group commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge shall:

(1) Ensure Navy parachutists employ only systems and equipment which are ANU listed, unless otherwise authorized here or for which a waiver has been granted by the CNO (N85).

(2) Ensure parachute operations are conducted only by personnel qualified in accordance with reference (b) following approved procedures, and such personnel are periodically requalified in accordance with reference (b).

(3) Ensure all assigned parachute qualified personnel meet the physical standards set forth in reference (f) and are periodically reexamined per references (b) and (f).

(4) Develop and implement command training plans to ensure adequate training of parachutists in all unit parachuting mission areas. Evaluate the effectiveness of such training and compliance with the Navy P3 Program through periodic unit inspections. Training plans must address onboard equipment and systems and provide for development/enhancement of parachutist skills in all mission areas.

(5) Each command which conducts parachute operations as an essential part of its assigned mission shall maintain an official log of all parachute operations conducted at the command. This policy is required for all P3 jumps regardless of individual permanent command assignment. This log is an official record and is to be retained for 3 years. Additionally, individual parachutists will maintain a personal parachute log documenting all military parachute jumps.

(6) Ensure P3 log reports are completed for all military parachute jumps and submitted to the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) (Code 471), 375 A ST, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399 per reference (i).

(7) Ensure parachuting mishaps resulting in death, lost-time injury, and/or material damage are reported within 24 hours to NAVSAFECEN per references (i) through (n), as appropriate. PEO CLA (PMS325) will be an information addressee on all such reports.

(8) Establish procedures to ensure parachute equipment which may have contributed to an accident is secured and untampered until completion of any inquiries or investigations required by references (i) through (n). The procedures should specify the equipment shall not be dismantled, cleaned, or altered in any way, except to remove any injured personnel from the equipment or out of danger.

(9) Periodically conduct operational, administrative, and material inspections of units which conduct parachute operations as an essential part of their assigned mission and appropriate shore activities to verify compliance with the Navy P3 Program.

c. PEO CLA will:

(1) Designate a technical manager to serve as the technical authority for Navy parachuting. His or her responsibilities will include the design, acquisition, logistics, operation, and maintenance of parachute equipment and systems.

(2) Provide technical support to CNO as required in the development of parachuting program policy and advise CNO on matters which affect Navy parachuting.

(3) Establish and administer programs and procedures for safety assessments of commercially available equipment leading to ANU designation. Maintain an annually revised listing of parachute systems and equipment which have been authorized for use by Navy parachutists and retain documentation supporting approval.

(4) In response to CNO-approved programs and requirements, develop and provide parachute equipment, procedures, and systems with tailored, comprehensive acquisition logistics support in accordance with reference (p).

13 JAN 1998

(5) Coordinate with systems commands and other PEOs to provide technical recommendations to CNO (N851) on all requests for waiver of Navy P3 Program procedures and requirements.

(6) Assist in the correction of safety deficiencies discovered during inspections and surveys. Provide technical guidance or recommend policy changes for approval by higher authority to preclude recurrence of deficiencies.

(7) Provide technical support for the design and development of changes required to upgrade or correct system design deficiencies identified through surveys and technical reviews.

(8) Develop and update parachute equipment material allowances, outfitting, and load lists for all commands having a requirement for parachute systems per reference (q).

d. Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command (COMNAVSUPSYSCOM) will:

(1) Provide material support according to reference (q) for P3 systems and equipment to meet fleet requirements.

(2) Maintain liaison with PEO CLA according to existing program support agreements and provide supply management guidance for Navy P3 equipment and systems.

e. Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) will:

(1) Provide for the selection of personnel for basic, advanced, and specialized P3 training. Exercise approval authority over requests to deviate from P3 qualification requirements.

(2) Obtain recommendations from Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) on requests to waive physical and psychological standards.

(3) Develop officer and enlisted premeditated personnel parachutist classification codes.

(4) Establish and publish P3 qualification and regualification criteria and the administrative procedures for documentation in member service records and parachute logs.

(5) Establish, monitor, and administer career patterns for P3 parachutists under existing personnel management policies, consistent with the needs of the Navy.

f. The Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) shall provide guidance and be the approving authority for formal P3 related curriculum being taught at Navy training commands (e.g., Naval Special Warfare Center and Naval Special Warfare Center Detachment Little Creek).

g. BUMED will:

(1) Establish and publish medical standards for P3 parachutists and coordinate proposed changes with the appropriate Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) sponsors.

(2) Provide recommendations to CHNAVPERS concerning requests to waive these standards for P3 candidates and otherwise qualified parachutists.

h. Commander, Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN) will:

(1) Carry out the provisions of references (j), (k), and (r) as they relate to the Navy P3 Program.

(2) Maintain a data repository for all aspects of Navy P3 safety, including records of each Navy P3 jump per reference (i). Analyze compiled data for trends in personnel and equipment performance and procedural adequacy. Periodically distribute findings to all commands which conduct parachute operations as an essential part of their assigned mission.

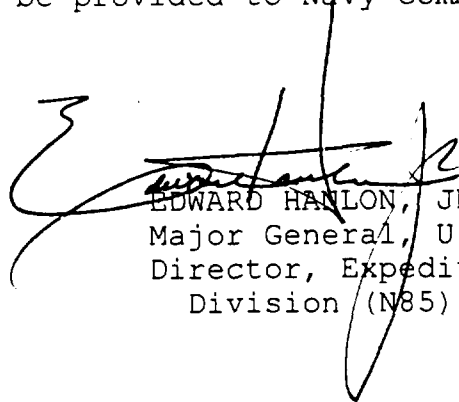
(3) Provide assistance in the area of P3 safety to commands which conduct parachute operations as an essential part of their assigned mission, and to PEO CLA as required. Advise CNO on the status of the Navy Safety and Occupational Safety and Health Program as it relates to P3 activities.

(4) As directed by CNO, investigate all P3 mishaps that are Class A or B, and major failures of parachute components or life support equipment (such as automatic activator device failure) according to references (i) through (n). Assist in the Safety Investigations to determine if changes to the Navy P3 Program doctrine, policies, procedures, or training are indicated to preclude recurrence of similar mishaps.

OPNAVINST 3501.225A

13 JAN 1998

(5) In accordance with reference (r), develop a P3 safety checklist and periodically conduct safety surveys of Navy commands which conduct parachute operations as an essential part of their assigned mission. This checklist will be available, upon request, and will be provided to Navy commands prior to their safety surveys.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Hanlon, Jr.', is written over the typed name and title.

EDWARD HANLON, JR.

Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Director, Expeditionary Warfare
Division (N85)

Distribution:
(See next page)

11 JAN 1993

Distribution:

SNDL A1J1P (Program Executive Office for Carriers, Littoral Warfare and Auxiliary Ships) (PMS325, PMS325J)

A2A (Department of the Navy Staff Offices) (OGC, JAG and CNR, only)

A3 (OPNAV (N1, N11, N12, N13, N3/5, N512, N515, N6, N85, N851, N852, N859, N86, N869, N88, N889, N091, N093, N095, N09B31))

A5 (Chief of Naval Personnel)

B1B (Offices of the Secretary of Defense) (Research and Engineering (T&E), only)

B2A (Special Agencies, Staffs, Boards and Committees) (JSOC and (J3/SOD), only)

21A (Fleet Commanders in Chief)

22A (Fleet Commanders)

23A (Naval Force Commanders)

23B (Special Force Commanders)

23C (COMNAVRESFOR New Orleans LA)

24D (Surface Force Commanders)

24H (Fleet Training Command and Detachment)

24J (Marine Corps Forces Command)

26A (Amphibious Group)

26D (SEAL Teams and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Teams and Detachments)

26E (Amphibious Unit) (SPECBOATRONs and SPECBOATUs, only)

26F (Operational Test and Evaluation Force)

26GG (Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit and Group)

26QQ (Special Warfare Group, Unit and Detachment)

26KKK (Tactical Training Group)

28L (Amphibious Squadron)

29B (Aircraft Carrier)

50D (Components and Unified/Specified Commands)

C25A (Support Activity Detachments) (Ft Ritchie, only)

FF5 (Safety Center)

FF20 (Historical Center)

FF38 (Academy, Naval)

FF42 (Postgraduate School)

FF44 (War College)

FH1 (Medicine and Surgery)

FJA10 (Manpower Analysis Center)

FKA1A (Air Systems Command)

FKA1B (Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command)

FKA1F (Supply Systems Command)

OPNAVINST 3501.225A

13 JAN 1998

Distribution (continued):

SNDL FKA1G (Sea Systems Command) (SEA 91, PMS395)
FKP4A (Coastal Systems Station Dahlgren Division)
(Code 054S) (3)
FKP4E (Surface Warfare Center and Divisions) (Code F102)
FKP6D (Experimental Diving Unit)
FKR6B (Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division)
FKR6B (Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division)
(Code 461000D) (25)
FT1 (Chief of Naval Education and Training)
FT22 (Fleet Combat Training Center)
FI1 (Special Warfare Center)

Copy to:

SNDL A1 (Immediate Office of the Secretary)
A6 (Commandant Marine Corps)
CDRJFK SPWAR CENSH FT BRAGG NC (ATSU-CD-ML)